



# City of Cambridge

CR # 1

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 31, 1995

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to appoint an interdepartmental task force to immediately review existing programs, and develop a program on graffiti removal that would include education, awareness, eradication, enforcement, etc.

In City Council July 31, 1995.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury,  
City Clerk

## City of Cambridge

The Environment Committee conducted a public hearing on Thursday, June 29, 1995 beginning at 3:08 p.m. in the Ackermann Room, second floor, City Hall.

Councillor Francis H. Duehay, Chair of the above referenced Committee, convened the hearing and stated that the purpose of this date's proceeding was two-fold: 1) to discuss the City's decision to undertake the construction of a new water filtration plant and system and 2) to discuss the City's efforts with regards to graffiti removal. Present at the hearing were: Vice Mayor Sheila T. Russell, Councillor Kathleen L. Born, Councillor Anthony D. Galluccio, Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager, Susan Schlesinger, Assistant City Manager for Community Development, Michael Nicoloro, Managing Director the Water Department, Ralph Dunphy, Commissioner of Public Works, Donald Drisdell, Deputy City Solicitor, Alex Strysky, Director of the Conservation Commission, Elizabeth Epstein, Director of the Environment Program/Interim Deputy Director of Community Development, Deputy Superintendent Gloria Pimental (Police), Captain Henry Breen, Dr. Joseph Harrington, President of the Cambridge Water Board and John E. Flynn, Deputy City Clerk.

To begin the discussion, Councillor Duehay recognized Mr. Rossi for a presentation regarding the new water filtration plant.

Mr. Rossi stated that this hearing would serve as the beginning of the process by giving notice to the City Council and the citizenry of the City's desire to build a new plant. He stated that the present facility is more than seventy years old and that replacement and not rehabilitation is needed to meet all federal and state regulations and guidelines, present and future. He further stated that the City is studying a number of options at this time and would serve as the basis of discussion. He noted that the City has contracted with Camp, Dresser and McKee to explore all options and that two independent consultants have been retained to challenge the assumptions made regarding siting and constructability by Camp Dresser. He also stated that a series of public meetings would be held with neighborhood residents, the business community and all other interested parties during the Summer and Fall of 1995 in order to educate and receive feedback on concerns before a final recommendation would be forwarded by the City Manager to the City Council. He concluded by saying that this would be the largest construction project ever undertaken by this City.

At this time Mr. Nicoloro was recognized for the second part of the presentation.

Mr. Nicoloro provided the Committee with an historic overview of the physical plant and noted that in 1989 the effects were being felt of the old plant. He further stated that in his fourteen month tenure a lot of process has been undertaken and that some stop-gap measures have been implemented. He concluded by saying that the physical plant is old, tired and in need of replacement.

At this time Mr. Jon Kissida of Camp, Dresses and McKee provided the Committee with the rationale employed to get to the present stage. He stated that at the beginning of the process a number of sites were examined including the placement of the new plant off Fresh Pond. Upon further review the site selection was filtered down to three on-Fresh Pond sites.

- 1) Existing Water Treatment Plant Site
- 2) Luisitania Field Site; and
- 3) Kingsley Park Site.

He also stated that in each site case detailed plans were drawn.

In further reviewing the three sites the following factors come into play:

- 1) Existing Water Plant Site - Staged construction
  - construction described as problematic
  - new plant would be more compact
  - allows for existing plant to be operational thus less reliance on the MWRA.
  - cost factor
- 2) Luisitania Field Site
  - significant wetlands
  - plant would be situated closer to the reservoir (up to 90 feet)
  - more disruptive
  - allows for existing plant to ne operational thus less reliance on the MWRA
  - excessive additional cost for piping
- 3) Kingsley Park Site
  - removal of trees and loss of open space
  - allows for adequate parking
  - allows for existing plant to be operational thus lees reliance in the MWRA
  - could build additional soccer field

4) Existing Water Plant Site - Demolition

- construction completed within two years
- tight facility (one half the length of the existing facility)
- all mechanicals internal
- heavy reliance on MWRA.

Mr. Rossi stated that all of the alternatives would allow for the City to address a number of issues within the reservoir property such as fence replacement, lighting, call boxes, parking, etc.

Vice Mayor Russell inquired of the costs associated with the heavy purchase of water from the MWRA if alternative number 4 was recommended.

In response, Mr. Rossi stated that preliminary estimates would be in the 9-10 million dollar range but that the City Manager will be exploring with the Executive Director of MWRA a future water exchange agreement that could reduce the cost estimates.

Mr. Kissida in a follow up response stated that if all the associated costs were to be considered by in all four alternatives that the trade-off for water purchase would be the same on the bottom line.

Councillor Duehay inquired of the costs associated with alternative number one.

Mr. Kissida stated that stage construction was the most expensive of the alternatives adding between 2-4 million dollars to the total costs of the project.

At this time the Committee heard from Ms. Epstein on the review process to be employed in the recommendation stage.

Ms. Epstein stated that the City Manager had decided to employ a peer review component to review the siting assumptions made by Camp Dresser. She stated that the independent reviewers (Martin Pilsbury - MAPC and Ingeberg Hejemann Clark - former Chair, Cambridge Conservation Commission) would review construction, archeological aspects, etc. with a siting report due in mid Summer '95. With regards to public review and comment, Ms. Epstein stated that a number of community meetings would be held and written comments solicited. She also stated that the process will rely on the participation of several City departments and boards and commissions as well as state entities (MWRA and MDC).

Councillor Duehay stated that the must include tax payer concerns and that detailed information and explanation be provided through a public awareness and education program.

Mr. Rossi concurred with the Chair's remarks and stated that at present the proper vehicle was under review.

Dr. Harrington stated that the Water Board favored the construction of the new plant at the existing site, with a state of the art facility and in as short of time as possible.

Mr. Rossi stated that the present facility was built with the technology of the 1930's and that the new facility would be built to last at least 50 years. He termed the project essential if the City was to continue as its own supplier.

Councillor Duehay inquired if it might be possible to sell water to the MWRA after completion of the facility.

Mr. Rossi in response stated that the City has made overtures to the MWRA on this matter and that the City was exploring future mortgaging of water to the MWRA.

Vice Mayor Russell stated that public meeting site should include such neighborhoods as the Tobin, the Haggerty and the Highlands.

Councillor Galluccio inquired that if all of the alternatives are equal in cost is there a preference.

Mr. Rossi in response said that there might be a preferred.

Mr. Robert Winters, 366 Broadway, inquired of the criteria used in the rejection of sites and for an explanation of 2 series and 4 years for the construction stage.

Mr. Kissida stated that the answer to the first question would be available in July of '95 and that in a staged construction it requires time and a number of multiple bids, contracts and contractors.

Mr. Rossi also stated that the MWRA has issues themselves and wants the City to be self-reliant.

Mr. James Barton, 130 Appleton Street, Alternative member of the Conservation Commission, stated that there are a variety of reasons such as wetlands, bird migration, etc. not to site the facility at Lusitania Field. He also suggested that a schedule of public meetings be compiled.

Councillor Born inquired of the total costs associated with staged versus demolition.

Mr. Rossi in response stated that 4 million dollars before negotiations with MWRA.

With regards to the Kingsley Site, Councillor Born inquired if there would be a reduction in parking spaces in the reservation.

Mr. Kissida responded in the negative.

To conclude this part of the site selection the chair requested that the Site Selection Committee forward to the Environment Committee a report outlining public comments and the Water Board's recommendation.

At this time Councillor Duehay steered the discussion towards the subject of graffiti removal.

To begin Councillor Duehay inquired who is doing it.

Commissioner Dunphy stated that "tagging" cannot be isolated to any particular socio-economic class. It deals with its own psychology and that to eradicate it takes more than the efforts of one department.

Councillor Duehay inquired of the amount expended on graffiti removal.

In response Commissioner Dunphy stated that 9600 dollars were spent in FY95.

Councillor Duehay outlined to the Committee an incident that occurred at his church in which the building was defaced with Hate Symbols.

Mr. Drisdell stated that these types of incidents (hate symbols) carry with it criminal implications.

Councillor Galluccio stated that graffiti has now become cultural and that from the point of view from youths it is considered positive and not negative. It is a vehicle that brings praise.

Councillor Duehay inquired of the steps that could be taken by the City in this area.

In response Councillor Galluccio suggested that the first step would be to review what other municipalities are doing and that the program should include an educational component and enforcement.

Councillor Born inquired of Councillor Galluccio if graffiti was an issue during his high school training.

In response he stated that graffiti was inevitable given the culture of anonymity that we live in. He further stated that there is no way to stop it but there are steps to eradicate it.

Councillor Duehay inquired of the present penalties that are in effect.

In response Captain Breen stated there exists a City ordinance regarding painting on buildings and MGL Chapter 121 dealing with tagging. He stated that crime analysis is performed and recorded.

Councillor Galluccio stated that graffiti is restricted to a small number of individuals who just want to get their name out and about.

Mr. Rossi stated that some tagging is gang related but mostly it is general vandalism.

With regards to arrest and prosecution Mr. Rossi stated that the statistics are low.

Councillor Duehay stated that graffiti is unacceptable to the community and that a program was needed.

Ms. Bolrice of the Community Policing Program provided information obtained from International Association of Chiefs of Police and stated that all established programs call for participation by a wide array of City departments.

Councillor Duehay inquired of the possibility of the formation of a youth committee.

Mr. Rossi suggested the possibility teaming up with a court liaison with a penalty of restitution which could be community service.

Councillor Galluccio suggested the establishment of a graffiti hot-line with immediate removal of the graffiti. He also suggested that a target area be established with appropriate tracking.

Mr. Rossi stated that the key ingredient to any program would be prompt removal.

Mr. Winters inquired if assistance could be given to private property owners.

Mr. Rossi responded in the affirmative.

At this time Councillor Duehay offered the following motion:

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to appoint an interdepartmental task force to immediately review existing programs, and develop a program on graffiti removal that would include education, awareness, eradication, enforcement, etc.

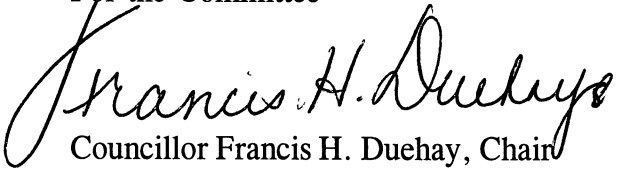
On a voice vote the motion carried.

Councillor Born stated that the program should include removal, appropriate punishment and making the act less socially acceptable.

Councillor Duehay concluded the hearing by thanking those for their comments and attendance.

The hearing was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

For the Committee

  
Councillor Francis H. Duehay, Chair

1.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

8-248

Environment Committee Report for a hearing held on Thursday, June 29, 1995 to discuss the decision by the City to undertake the construction of a new water filtration plant and system and to discuss the City's efforts regarding graffiti removal.

In City Council,

July 31, 1995

Report accepted and  
Placed on file.  
Order adopted.  
Placed on awaiting  
Report. Just Pls  
Councillor Buckley.